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Substitute Specification
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Diagnostic Procedure for Recognition of Functional Disorder of the Pancreas.

The invention relates to a diagnostic procedure for the recognition of a functional disorder of the pancreas. The areas of application are medicine and the pharmaceutical industry.

Functional disorders of the pancreas may be the result of various illnesses whose diagnosis should be underpinned by the definition of functional criteria. The most frequent diseases of the pancreas are chronically recurrent and acute pancreatitis.

Chronic pancreatitis is an insidious progressive disease in which functioning pancreas tissue gradually degenerates in a sclerotising process. It is characterised by its clinical symptoms (abdominal complaints, steatorrhoea, weight loss), typical morphological changes of the gland (calcification, dilated and irregularly demarcated Ductus pancreaticus) and by a progressive exocrine and endocrine loss of function (indigestion, diabetes mellitus). The incidence of chronic pancreatitis is 6 or 8 new cases per 100 000 persons per annum in West Europe. The diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis is becoming increasingly frequent as a result of increasing alcohol consumption.

A number of functional criteria can be identified for the underpinning of clinical and morphological diagnoses. The most sensitive method of analysis is the Secretin-Caerulein or Secretin-Cholecystocinin test, which is, however, unpleasant for the patient and very time-consuming. Indirect test methods that are used include the Lundh-, NBT-PABA- and Pancreozymin-tests. The identification of trypsin in serum or of chymotrypsin in stool is also of a certain practical significance. The